

### Claims

1. Method for processing speech,  
comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a speech input (SI) of a speaker (S),
  - generating speech parameters (SP) from said speech input (SI),
  - 5 - determining parameters describing an absolute loudness (L) of said speech input (SI),
  - evaluating (EV) said speech input (SI) and/or said speech parameters (SP) using said parameters describing the absolute loudness (L).
- 10 2. Method according to claim 1,  
wherein the step of evaluation (EV) comprises a step of emotion recognition.
3. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
wherein the step of evaluation (EV) comprises a step of speaker identifica-  
15 tion.
4. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
wherein a microphone array (MA) comprising a plurality of microphones is  
used for determining said parameters describing the absolute loudness (L).  
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5. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
wherein a location and/or distance (D) of the speaker is determined.
6. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,  
25 **characterized in that**  
the absolute loudness (L) is determined using algorithms for auditory  
and/or binaural processing.
7. Method according to claim 5 or 6,  
30 **characterized in that**  
said absolute loudness (L) is computed by normalizing a measured loud-  
ness, or energy by said distance (D).
8. Method according to claim 5, 6, or 7,  
35 **characterized in**  
that said distance (D) is determined using the time delay (TD) of the speech  
input between said plurality of microphones.

5       **9.**     Speech processing system,  
          which is capable of performing or realizing a method for processing speech  
          according to anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 8 and/or the steps  
          thereof.

10       **10.**    Computer program product,  
          comprising computer program means adapted to perform and/or to realize  
          the method of processing speech according to anyone of the claims 1 to 8  
          and/or the steps thereof, when it is executed on a computer, a digital sig-  
          nal processing means, and/or the like.

15       **11.**    Computer readable storage medium,  
          comprising a computer program product according to claim 10.